



Release Highlight: December 1, 2008

MONTANA

Montana's Aging Workforce

Realizing an aging workforce impacts the ability of a business to supply needed goods and services, the U.S. Census Bureau is analyzing 2004 labor and population data and producing reports by state entitled "*The Geographic Distribution and Characteristics of Older Workers*". The Montana report was issued in September 2008 and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Older workers are defined to be 55 years and older, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2004, 16 counties in Montana had workforces where 20% or more of the workers were 55 and older. The top five counties are listed in the table on the right.

Many workers aged 65 and older still punch a clock on a daily basis. Statewide 3.1% of the workforce was 65 and older. These older workers are typically real estate brokers who can set their own hours of work. Doctors, nurses and other health care workers are the largest industrial

group with a concentration of workers 55 years and older. Over 18% of all health care workers could conceivably retire in 10 years or less.

Dynamic and current information about local labor market conditions is the result of partnerships between the U.S. Census Bureau and state labor market information agencies. Through the Local Employment Dynamic (LED) partnerships, Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) have been developed. These economic indicators include employment, job creation, wages, and worker turnover. These indicators can be queried by different levels of geography such as state and county, as well as by detailed industry, gender, and age of workers.

Currently for Montana, 2007 Quarter 4 QWI data is available. To analyze a specific county, a Powerpoint Presentation containing a set of instructions can be found on CEIC's website. Not all employment is available for each industry and each county due to confidentiality concerns.

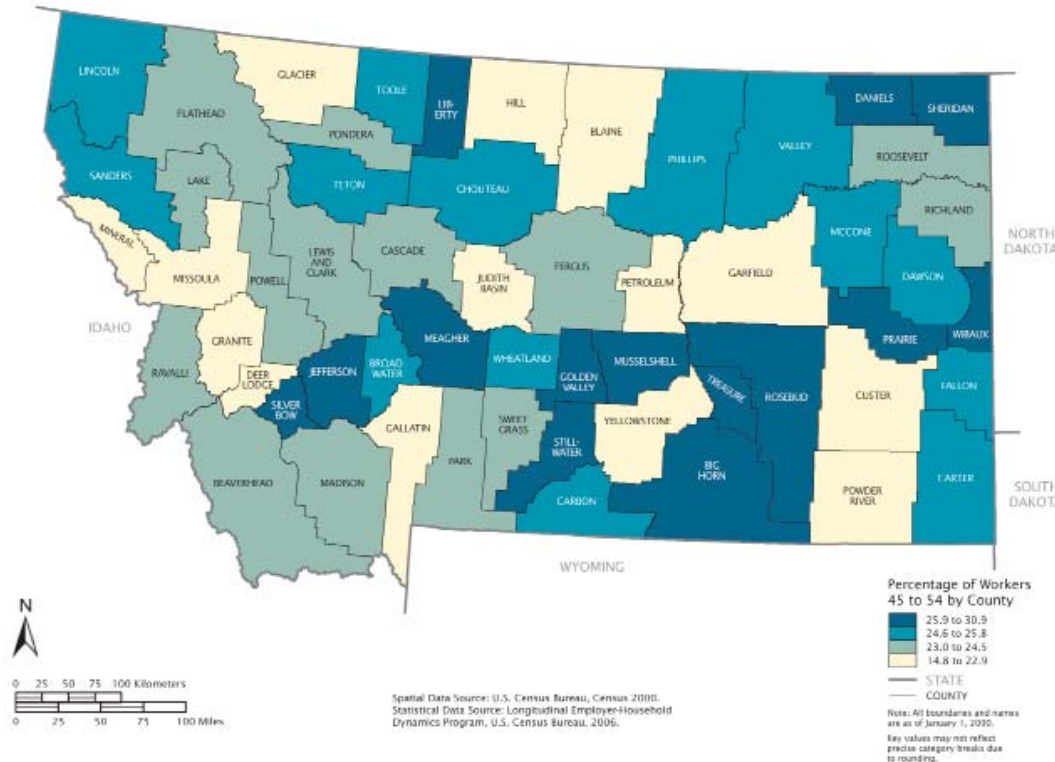
Montanans are getting older. In 2000, 13.4% were 65 and over, by 2030 the population is projected to be 20.7. The county with the highest percent of population 65 and older will be Prairie County at 35.3% in 2030. Gallatin County will have the smallest percent at 8.5%. More information on total and 65 and older population projections can be found on CEIC's website.

Highest Percentage of Workers 55 and Older

County	% of Workforce
Meagher	24
Treasure	24
Chouteau	22
Musselshell	22
Sheridan	22

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Percentage of Workers 45 to 54 Years Old by County of Workplace in Montana: 2004



More Information:

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